

VZCZCXYZ0007
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSW #2046 3071623
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 031623Z NOV 06
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3378
INFO RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 4058
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2622

UNCLAS BERN 002046

SIPDIS

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE FOR USDEL OPCW

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [SZ](#)
SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) - SEEKING
SUPPORT FOR U.S. REQUEST TO EXTEND 100 PERCENT DESTRUCTION
DEADLINE

REF: SECSTATE 179253

1.(SBU) Switzerland will not intervene on the USG extension request at the CWC Executive Council meeting. In response to reftel talking points, Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs Disarmament Chief Andreas Friedrich told Poloff that Switzerland appreciates the USG paper and is aware of the hurdles in our efforts to meet the 100 percent destruction deadline. At the same time, Switzerland encourages the USG to step up its efforts, observing that Russia seemed to be making better progress. Asked by Poloff whether Switzerland's view remains, as it was last April, one of "grudging acceptance" of the USG position, Friedrich laughed in general agreement. His view, he added, was that "meeting the deadline would still be possible; it is just a question of resources." Nevertheless, instructions for the Swiss delegation will be not to weigh in on the issue.
OTTO